[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

In the southwest section of the Middle East (Lebna, village, or suburb), the status of suitors is a very important one. Relatives are constantly sent [illegible] relatives and messengers, and men are rightly included from the lower strata [illegible] the bride's sitting place (cf. Crawford, 1937, pp. 45-47).

Only one villager was here during the period of study, and the exact [illegible] place in Beirut (the family is in the business [illegible] were then before the entire [illegible] of it. The majority of Ahmad's [illegible] of childbearing age live in the city west of the area, and for the most part they closely [illegible] the services of physicians and hospitals in important medical centers.

Down here, the modern village school, judging from the way five were [illegible] served, spends the time in a still and a not established consistently. After the first [illegible] two weeks, he may be lost from a modern moving tactic. Factory-made toys are not very common in Lebanon, but small cars and trucks and at least one bicycle were observed in the village.

Birthday anniversaries are celebrated in a few families. There is a cake with candles, and the whole affair is very probably inspired by experiences in American [illegible] schools.

Baptism is performed anywhere from forty days to about two years after the birth of the child. It appeared that the exact interval varied [illegible] age. The ritual is accompanied by at least a family party, but in some cases, according to one informant, the baptismal party may approach a wedding party in size.

ENGAGEMENT AND MARRIAGE

Engagement. Engagement (*khutbi*) is a more or less formal status. Quite often the couple simply declare themselves engaged, with the tacit approval of the priest. If both parties are members of the village, the priest's only [illegible] concern is that they are more distantly related than first cousin. If they are [illegible] cousins, it is his duty to inform them that he will be unable to marry them. In [illegible] case, the couple may or may not come to the priest for his blessing. Wedding rings (plain gold bands) are worn by both parties on the right hand to signify engagement. At the marriage ceremony, they are transferred to the left. Engaged couples may see each other alone at any time, and no questions are asked. Young

p. 119(a)

p. 181(a)

p. 122.(8)

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]